AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the Claims as follows. Insertions are shown underlined while deletions are ~~struck through~~.

1 (currently amended): An organic EL device comprising:

1) a laminate consisting of an opposed pair of electrodes and an organic light-emitting layer sandwiched between the electrode,

2) a gas-tight housing accommodating said laminate and shielding off the external atmosphere, and

3) a sheet-like preformed moisture-absorbing body fabricated outside the gas-tight housing in advance, disposed in isolation from said laminate within said gas-tight housing, said preformed moisture-absorbing body being fixedly secured to at least one part of said gas-tight housing, and said preformed moisture-absorbing body comprising a desiccant and a resin component.

2 (canceled)

3 (original): An organic EL device according to Claim 1 wherein said moisture-absorbing body is a body obtained by forming a mixture consisting of a desiccant and a resin component.

4 (previously presented): An organic EL device according to Claim 1 wherein the desiccant comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of alkaline earth metal oxides and sulfate salts.

5 (previously presented): An organic EL device according to Claim 1 wherein said resin component is at least one kind of gas-permeable resin.

6 (canceled)

7 (currently amended): A method of manufacturing an organic EL device comprising 1) a laminate consisting of an opposed pair of electrodes and an organic light-emitting layer sandwiched between the electrodes, 2) a gas-tight housing accommodating said laminate and shielding off the external atmosphere and 3) a desiccating means disposed in isolation from said laminate within said gas-tight housing, ~~characterized in that~~ the method ~~includes a first step~~ comprising:

~~preparing~~forming a sheet-like preformed moisture-absorbing body comprising a desiccant and a resin component outside said gas-tight housing to prevent generation of impurities inside said gas-tight housing, which is generated during the formation of said preformed moisture-absorbing body; and

~~a second step comprising~~ fixing said preformed moisture-absorbing body as desiccating means to at least one inner part of said gas-tight housing.

8 (currently amended): ~~A~~The manufacturing method according to Claim 7 wherein ~~said first step comprises~~the forming of said preformed moisture-absorbing body comprises providing a mixture consisting of a~~said~~ desiccant and a~~said~~ resin component ~~to provide said preformed moisture-absorbing body~~.

9 (currently amended): ~~An organic EL device~~The method according to Claim ~~1~~7 wherein said resin component is selected from the group consisting of polyolefins, polyacrylic acids or esters, polyacrylonitrile, polyamides, polyesters, epoxy resins and polycarbonates.

10 (currently amended): ~~An organic EL device~~The method according to Claim ~~1~~7 wherein said resin component is selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polypropylene, polybutadiene and polyisoprene.

11 (currently amended): ~~An organic EL device~~The method according to Claim ~~1~~7 wherein the amount of said desiccant is about 30 to 85 weight % and that of said resin component is about 70 to 15 weight % based on 100 weight % of the desiccant and resin component combined.

12 (currently amended): ~~An organic EL device~~The method according to Claim ~~1~~7 wherein the amount of said desiccant is about 40 to 80 weight % and that of said resin component is about 60 to 20 weight % based on 100 weight % of the desiccant and resin component combined.

13 (currently amended): ~~An organic EL device~~The method according to Claim ~~1~~7 wherein the amount of said desiccant is about 50 to 70 weight % and that of said resin component is about 50 to 30 weight % based on 100 weight % of the desiccant and resin component combined.

14 (currently amended): ~~An organic EL device~~The method according to Claim 9 wherein said resin component is polyolefin.

15 (new): The manufacturing method according to Claim 7 wherein the forming of said preformed moisture-absorbing body comprises integrating said desiccant and said resin component without using a solvent.